

## A Composite Of Four Conversations

Greetings one and all,

Different disciplines have different ways of expressing the same truths about listening.

I had four conversations with three folks who are active in theatre, acting, performing, and directing. As I shared portions of the previous conversation each added the wisdom of their profession. I became aware of new ways of expressing what I would say. In their own words as much as I remember.

"A good actor and actress has to be good listener to respond to the other."

"Good acting is re-acting." I added the Latin meaning to "re" as "again." Good acting is re-acting again and again.

"Acting involves learning the lines and the "cues" at the same time."

I would add that listening involves responding to the "clues" another gives you as they are telling their story. Unlike the stage, responding to the cues/clues, our re-acting involves the decision of sorting out the multiple cues/clues given in lines of their story. We can respond to the easy and light side of a story or one may re-act to the more serious cues/clues for a greater depth and meaning to the story. The light side may even hide the more serious side.

"Acting is in the moment. Aha! You have to stay with the moment, in the moment set by the lines and scene. I would say you have to stay in the present with the story being shared for a ministry of presence.

After 40 years of working within the health care environment I am now learning the language of other disciplines regarding our listening skills for staying with the story. I celebrate the opportunity provided at the Cathedral. The community of the Church embraces our various disciplines to give us all a wider perspective on the ministry of the Word/word. Hopefully, we will be open to this continuing revelation. Our 2nd Sunday each month on the Art of Listening provides an ongoing discovery. We are at a different place than when we started a year ago June.

Come to the chapel from 9:30-10:15 AM this Sunday when Dee Canfield and Karl and Kay Ungurean share their ministry stories and enrich our listening ministries. Dee has been teaching English as a second language to adult immigrants. Kay and Karl have made mission trips to Guatemala and El Salvador.

From my perspective, we are on the threshold of a great adventure as we learn how we are a "ministering community ..." witnessing to our unity in Christ in the wider community.

Shalom,  
Fr. Whitmer